

House Joint Resolution 30: Benefits for Military Personnel and Veterans

Preliminary Findings

As of September 3, 2014

Prepared by Casey Barrs, Research Analyst

P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
PHONE: (406) 444-3064
FAX: (406) 444-3036
<http://leg.mt.gov>



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
November 13, 2014
Exhibit 6

Total Benefits At a Glance

Military Affairs	0
Justice	5,618,581
Health & Human Services	2,175,204
Revenue	8,231,902
Office of Public Instruction	0
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	1,312,351
Commerce	13,953,340
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	75,969
Labor & Industry	0
State	0
	Subtotal: 31,367,347
All depts: paid military leave	264,335
	Total: 31,361,682

STATE GOVERNMENT

All Departments

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	Hours	Value in \$	Comment
Paid military leave: Leave of up to 120 hours in a CY for public employees with \geq six months' tenure.	10-1-1009, MCA	"member of the organized militia of this state or of the organized or unorganized reserve corps or military forces of the US"	2,812	55,820.90	Military Affairs
			1,330	31,064.64	Justice
			631	11,359.85	Public Health and Human Services
			160	4,018.04	Revenue
			278	4,845.87	Administration
			120	3,390.12	Admin - Public Defender
			336	8,424.27	Natural Resources and Conservation
			120	3,155.44	Commerce
			355	10,345.51	Environmental Quality
			57	834.13	Livestock
			946	19,333.19	Transportation
			132	4,340.10	State Fund
			3,985	74,386.43	Corrections
			653	12,172.30	Labor & Industry
			168	3,627.91	Legislative Branch
			611	17,217.08	MT University System
				Total: 264,335.78	

All Departments

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
Hiring Preference	39-29-part one, MCA MT ARM 2.21.36 et seq	Veterans and Disabled Veterans	3,977 out of 52,035 applicants (or 7%) requested a preference.	n/a	No dollar value available. Department has data on the number of requests for the preference by veterans—but cannot determine how often that preference was the determining factor in a hiring.

Department of Military Affairs

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
Department Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate 10 statewide service offices: Belgrade, Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Miles City, and Missoula. • Prepare and file benefit claims for veterans and their families. • Represent veterans and their families in the claims and appeals process of the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. • Provide regularly scheduled veterans outreach services throughout the state. • Advise veterans and their families on veterans benefits, and assist in obtaining legal and medical documentation to support claims. • Obtain military service records and 	2-15-1201-1205, MCA	Montana veterans	†2,313	163,596,310	<i>All federal money</i> † Number of claims the DMA helped prepare and file with the USDVA on behalf of MT veterans who were then paid directly by the USDVA

awards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate assistance with other veterans service organizations and government agencies. • Educate, advise and assist the general public and government agencies on veterans affairs and issues. • Administer, operate and maintain State Veterans Cemeteries in accordance with the National Cemetery Administration's National Shrine Standards. • Receive donations for State Veterans Cemeteries. • Represent the State of Montana as a member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. 					
---	--	--	--	--	--

Department of Justice / Division of Motor Vehicles

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
(a) Waives vets' cemetery fee for special veteran license plates and vehicle registration fees.	61-3-460(2)(a), MCA	Ex-POW	—	9,800.17	FY 2014 waivers of registration, MHP or cemetery fees, or of the county option tax or gross vehicle weight tax.
(b) Waives vets' cemetery fee for special veteran license plates and vehicle registration fees.	61-3-460(2)(b), MCA	disabled)	—	1,982,634.72	
(c) Waives vets' cemetery fee for special veteran license plates and vehicle registration fees.	61-3-460(2)(c), MCA	Purple heart	—	135,781.03	Surviving spouses of (a)-(c), if not remarried, are eligible for same benefit.
(d) Special plates for military personnel, veterans, spouses, and gold star families .	61-3-458 and 61-3-459(1), MCA	Member of military	—	1,534,608.97	
(e) Registration of motor vehicle owned and operated by Montana	61-3-456(3), MCA	Montana military	—	1,955,756.21	

resident on active military duty stationed <i>outside</i> Montana exempted.				Total: 5,618,581.10	
---	--	--	--	---------------------	--

Department of Public Health And Human Services

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
Montana Veteran's Homes (2) (a) Glendive (b) Columbia Falls	10-2-401, et.seq., MCA; ARM 37.45.102, et.seq.; 38 CFR Part 51, Subpart C; Cigarette Tax: §16-11-119(1)(a)	Veterans and Veterans' spouses	†(a) 80 (b) 117	(a) 142,526 (b) 1,972,072 (Gen admin) 60,606 2,175,204	All figures: May 2014 † Number of beds. The avg daily population was (a) 111.23 , and (b) 69.18

Department of Revenue

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
Exemption of resident's active duty military salary	15-30-2117(2), MCA	Active duty military	4,763	7,473,937.00	
Exemption of National Guard life insurance reimbursement	15-30-2117(3), MCA	National Guard	44	601.00	Exempted \$17,874 for a revenue loss of \$601.
Non-resident military salary taxed to home state	15-30-2101(18) (b)(i), MCA and the federal Service Member's Civil Relief Act: P.L. 108-189; 50 U.S.C. App.	Non-resident military	940	757,364.28	Exempted \$34,863,185 for a revenue loss of \$757,364.28

	§§501-597b				
Exemption of death benefits for Guard members	15-30-2117(4), MCA	Guard members	--	--	Data unavailable: this has no separate line on the return.
				Total: 8,231,902.28	

Office of Public Instruction

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
GI Bill	Various chapters	No breakout of who is actually receiving the benefits.	537	26,555,257.00 Not broken out per benefit	<i>All federal money</i>
Montgomery GI Bill	Chapter 30 (Title 38, U.S. Code)				
Montgomery GI Bill-Select Reserve	Chapter 1606 (Title 10, U.S. Code)				
Dependents Educational Assistance Program	Chapter 35 (Title 10 U.S. Code)				
Post 9/11 GI Bill	Chapter 33 (Title 38, U.S. Code)				

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value in \$	Comment
Tuition waivers Board of Regents directs all campuses to grant waivers of undergraduate tuition for under the Honorably Discharged Veterans	20-25-421, MCA; BoR policy 940.13 (F)(6)	Veterans		169,521.00	FY 2103
Tuition assistance	BoR policy 940.13	Veterans		1,142,830.00	This figure represents the

Board of Regents allows tuition to be waived for qualified veterans in accordance with an authorized Yellow Ribbon Program. (This program covers tuition costs that the normal Post Montgomery or Post 9/11 GI Bill would not normally cover.)	(G)(5); Chapter 33 (Title 38, U.S. Code)			Total: 1,312,351.00	state match requirement for the federal funds.
--	--	--	--	---------------------	--

Department of Commerce

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	# of Loans Purchased	Value in \$	Comment
MT Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program	90-6-601 thru 605, MCA	MT residents who are National Guard members, reservists or veterans	76 [†]	13,953,340.30	[†] CY 2013. The program is funded by \$30 million of principal from the Montana Coal Tax Trust Fund. It is a permanent revolving loan fund. First mortgage loans are administered by the MT Board of Housing and purchased by MT Board of Investments.
Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program	CFDA #14.871 24 CFR 982	Veterans	# months leased Avg. 136	706,859	CY 21013. <i>All federal money</i>

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	# licenses	Value	Comment: License Year 2013
<i>Resident hunting and fishing fees for Active Duty members and their families who are stationed in Montana</i>	87-2-102 (1) MCA			Unk	No data collected as to the number of military personnel who use this option since they are input into the Automated License as a resident.
<i>Military Recognition Licenses for Montana residents who served on active duty in a contingency operation outside of the state for at two least months;</i>	87-2-803 (12) MCA		904	63,280.00	The General Fund reimburses FWP yearly for the loss of revenue since the recognition comes from the state.
<i>Legion of Valor free fishing;</i>	87-2-801(3), MCA	Legion of Valor recipients	5~	300.00	
<i>Resident Purple Heart recipient free fishing and free upland game bird hunting</i>	87-2-801(4), MCA	Resident Purple Heart recipient	130	2,340.00	
<i>Nonresident Purple Heart recipient free fishing and free upland game bird hunting</i>	87-2-801(4), MCA		15~	652.50	Recipients may fish or upland game bird hunt for free while on an expedition by nonprofit organizations who use hunting and fishing for rehabilitation.
<i>Veterans in VA Hospitals free fishing</i>	87-2-802 (1) MCA	Veterans in VA Hospitals	Unk	Unk	
<i>Combat disabled Purple Heart recipient 50% fee on Deer and Antelope licenses</i>	87-2-803(5) MCA	Disabled Purple Heart recipient	19	1,724.50	
<i>Donation of hunting licenses to disabled veterans</i>	87-2-815 MCA	Disabled veterans with 70% or greater VA disability rating	8	7,672.00	113 hunting licenses were donated by sportsmen in 2013 for use by veterans
				Total: 75,969.00	

Department of Labor and Industry

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value	Comment
The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) offers a <i>federal</i> credit to employers of certain veterans.	26 USC 45P	Employer of certain categories if qualified or disabled or unemployed veterans	328 [†]	Unk	<p>10/1/12 - 09/30/13</p> <p>The is a credit ion <i>federal</i> income tax.</p> <p>[†] This is the number certified. The number of those ultimately coded under a veteran category is lower. And the number employed the minimum of hours required to claim the credit is lower.</p> <p>WOTC credits employers who hire individuals from a number of targeted groups facing employment barriers. The credit is up to \$9,600 per qualifying new hire during their first year of employment.</p>

Secretary of State

Benefit Description	Authority / Guidance	Beneficiary Type	#	Value	Comment
On line registration	13-21-104(2), 13-21-106(3), 13-21-221, MCA	Military and their dependents who are absent	N/A	None attributed	

Online application for absentee ballot	13-21-106(3), 13-21-222, MCA	from their place of registration.		
Online ballot delivery and voting	13-21-106(3), 13-21-224, MCA			
Online tracking of absentee ballot	13-21-227, MCA			
Exemption from late registration requirement to appear in the county election office	13-21-104(2)(c), MCA			
Absentee ballots sent 45 days before a federal election	13-13-205(2), 13-21-224, MCA			
Use of a Federal Write-in Ballot as a back-up ballot	13-21-225, MCA			